

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GH

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: ACCRA 3859

1. OVERFLOW CROWD OF 1200 JAMMED GHANA ARTS CENTER EVENING JUNE 18 FOR FAREWELL PERFORMANCE OF GHANAIAN TROUPE. INCLUDED WERE SEVERAL HIGH GOG OFFICIALS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS, AND MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS. ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE E.N. MOORE PRAISED U.S.G. FOR SPONSORING TRIP. WARMLY APPLAUDED WERE AMBASSADOR BLACK'S REMARKS EXPLAINING FESTIVAL AND SIGNIFICANCE OF GHANA'S PARTICIPATION. LATER DURING A POST-CONCERT RECEPTION IN BIDDING FAREWELL TO GHANAIAN TROUPE, AMBASSADOR BLACK AGAIN DROVE HOME IMPORTANCE AND SERIOUSNESS OF MISSION, THAT WORK DURING TOUR WOULD BE DEMANDING BUT ALSO REWARDING. SEVERAL PRE-AND POST PERFORMANCE GBC RADIO SPOTS FOCUSED ON NATIONAL PRIDE IN SENDING TROUPE TO U.S. GBC TV AND VIZNEWS (NBC) HAD CAMERAS AT SHOW AND POST ANTICIPATES AIRING GHANAIAN AND POSSIBLY U.S. MEDIA.

2. MEETINGS WITH ARTISTS PAST SEVERAL DAYS ALERTED POST TO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THAT SMITHSONIAN PROBABLY ALREADY HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FIRST, THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM. FEW MEMBERS OF TROUPE SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH. IN ANY BRIEFING OF GROUP AS A WHOLE PLEASE ALLOW TIME ENABLE VARIOUS GROUP LEADERS TRANSLATE FOR THEIR PARTICULAR GROUPS (GA, FANTE AND DAGBANI). POST
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ISSUING SPECIAL LETTER TO EACH TROUPE MEMBER IDENTIFYING SAME

WITH OFFICIAL FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. SECONDLY IN BRIEFING TROUP
JUNE 18, PAO REITERATED VISA PROHIBITION OF COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITIES. SOME CONCERN EXPRESSED BY GROUP LEADERS RE MEDIA
COVERAGE IN U.S. OTHER THAN STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE, ALL
FILMING AND RECORDING REQUESTS SHOULD BE CLEARED WELL IN
ADVANCE WITH ADMIN. REP. PHILLIPS AS WELL AS WITH LEADERS OF
WULOMEI, KWA MENSAH, AND GONJE GROUPS. GROUPS WILL COOPERATE
IN MEETING REASONABLE REQUESTS FROM THE MEDIA FOR RECORDING
AND FILMING. HOWEVER, THEIR COMPLIANCE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN
FOR GRANTED, AND AS SMITHSONIAN AWARE, AFRICAN ARTISTS WARY
OF BEING EXPLOITED BY FILM AND RECORDING COMPANIES.
BLACK

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